



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Central Library Hosts Literature Talk on Filipino National Hero José Rizal's
"Noli me tangere"**

Book Inspired Filipino Revolution and Helped Create Unified Filipino National Identity

San Diego, CA... The next installment of San Diego Public Library's *Literature Talk* will focus on José Rizal's history-changing classic *Noli Me Tangere* (*Touch Me Not*) on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street. *Literature Talk* is an occasional community lecture and discussion series of favorite books and exciting literary topics connecting readers with area college professors who teach the books in their classes. This event is free to the public

More than a century after its publication, national martyr José Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* remains the most important Filipino novel ever published. More than this, however, *Noli Me Tangere* is the most comprehensive catalog of colonial society—its characters, dramas, and conflicts—and the most succinct symbolic drama of the Philippines at a crossroads between a decaying Spanish empire and the rise of European and U.S. imperialisms in Southeast Asia. The title, taken from the New Testament book of John (20:17), refers to the ambiguous moment after Jesus' resurrection, prior to his ascension into heaven as the Son of God, when he tells Mary Magdalene not to touch him. In Rizal's hands, the phrase also comes to signify the "untouchable," unspoken scandal of colonial corruption and pastoral abuse in the closing decade of Spanish rule.

Come hear why *Noli Me Tangere* is required reading for high school students in the Philippines and join Dr. John Blanco of University of California, San Diego (UCSD)'s Literature Department in a discussion of the book's influence and central role in the Filipino literary tradition. Library cardholders who would like to read the work prior to the talk may borrow a copy from the San Diego Public Library. Online versions in the original Spanish, English and Tagalog may be found respectively at

<http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/servlet/SirveObras/67927391093470562465679/>,
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/6737>, and <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20228>

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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